

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 W
-----027509 170622Z /15

R 170535Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9933
INFO USINT BAGHDAD POUCH
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USLO RIYADH
AMEMBASSY SANA
USDOC WASHDC

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STATE FOR NEA/ARP

COMMERCE FOR ITA/BED/CAGNE AND OIM/SAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, KU
SUBJECT: PROPOSED WATER RESOURCES TRADE MISSION - JUNE 1978

REF: (A) STATE 0002430, (B) 77 KUWAIT A-57 OF JULY 16, 1977,
(C) 77 KUWAIT 6348

1. WE WILL BE READY JUNE 17 TO ASSIST "STOPOVER" VISITORS WITH MEETINGS WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND WATER AND WITH LOCAL FIRMS.

2. INFORMATION IN KUWAIT MAJOR PROJECTS LIST ON WATER RESOURCES, REPAIR B, SHOULD BE PASSED TO MISSION PARTICIPANTS WITH THE FOLLOWING UPDATE. TENDERS WILL BE RELEASED IN FEBRUARY 1978 ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF WATER STORAGE FACILITIES CONSISTING OF 13 WATER TOWERS AND 3
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ENCLOSED RESERVOIRS, CAPACITY 6.6 MILLION IMPERIAL GALLONS. THE CAPACITY OF KUWAIT'S WATER STORAGE FACILITIES WILL BE INCREASED IN 1979, ACCORDING TO MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND WATER (MEW) CONSTRUCTION PLANS, TO OVER 450 MILLION IMPERIAL GALLONS, WHICH REPRESENTS 20-30 DAYS OF RESERVES. A TENDER FOR 6 MILLION KD (1KD EQUALS \$3.61 ACCORDING TO THE CURRENT FLUCTUATING EXCHANGE RATES) WILL

BE LET BY FEBRUARY 1, 1978 FOR THE RELOCATION AND UPGRADING OF 170 KILOMETERS OF DUCTILE CAST IRON PIPE. THE TENDER IS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE WATER SYSTEM ONLY. THE MINISTRY WILL BE PURCHASING 8 MILLION KD WORTH OF DUCTILE CAST IRON PIPE FOR THIS PROJECT AND LATER ONES IN MARCH OF 1978. TWO AMERICAN FIRMS ARE BEING CONSIDERED, AMERICAN CAST IRON AND THE U.S. PIPE COMPANY; BUT MEW WOULD WELCOME ANY FURTHER EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST. MEW IN 1979 WILL ALSO TENDER A 5 MILLION KD CONTRACT FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE PRESENT NINE PUMPING STATIONS. SOURCES WITHIN MEW REPORT THAT THE MUCH BALLYHOOED AND LITTLE BELIEVED PLAN FOR THE DIVERSION OF WATER FROM THE SHATT AL-ARAB RIVER IN IRAQ TO KUWAIT IS BEING TREATED SERIOUSLY BY THE PLANNING AND POLICY MAKERS WITHIN THE MINISTRY. COMMISSIONING OF A FEASIBILITY AND DESIGN STUDY IS EXPECTED WITHIN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. PRESENT ESTIMATES COST THE PROJECT IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF 500 MILLION KD.

3. SINCE THE MINISTRY IS CURRENTLY FORMULATING A NEW WATER CODE AND IS KEENLY INTERESTED IN CUTTING DOWN ON DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION (PRESENTLY AT 100 IMPERIAL GALLONS PER PERSON PER DAY, A 25 PERCENT INCREASE OVER 1976) THE MEW SOURCES BELIEVE PRODUCTS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO WATER CONSERVATION OR DECREASE CONSUMPTION WOULD MOST PROBABLY RECEIVE FAVORABLE TARIFF TREATMENT AND BE SPECIFIED FOR FUTURE HOUSING AND OFFICE CONSTRUCTION. WE THEREFORE SUGGEST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT SUCH PRODUCTS BE INCORPORATED INTO THE TRADE MISSION. WATER RESOURCE CONSULTING FIRMS SHOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED.

4. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, APPRECIATE BEING POUCHED THE COMPANY LITERATURE OF THE TM PARTICIPANTS 3 TO 4 WEEKS IN ADVANCE SO THAT WE CAN MORE EFFECTIVELY PROMOTE THEIR VISIT.

5. COMMENT: WHATEVER MEW PLANNERS MAY BE THINKING ABOUT, THERE IS LITTLE TO INDICATE THAT PLAN FOR DIVERSION OF WATER FROM SHATT AL-ARAB RIVER IN IRAQ TO KUWAIT WAS MORE THAN A THROW-AWAY LINE LET OUT AS A SIGN OF PROGRESS AFTER KUWAIT FOREIGN MINISTER'S NOVEMBER 77 VISIT TO IRAQ (77 KUWAIT 6272). WE DOUBT THAT THIS IDEA WILL HAVE PROGRESSED SUFFICIENTLY TO BE WORTH ANY PARTICULAR ATTENTION BY ANY OF PROPOSED WATER RESOURCES TM MEMBERS WHO MAY VISIT KUWAIT IN JUNE, 1978.
MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KUWAIT00284
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780024-0318
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780156/aaaabuwx.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 01d1cfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 2430, 77 KUWAIT A-57, 77 KUWAIT 6348
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3763862
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED WATER RESOURCES TRADE MISSION - JUNE 1978
TAGS: BEXP, KU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/01d1cfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014